

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

REC'D 03 JUN 2004

WIPO PCT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Rec'd PCT/PTO 20 APR 2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT 08/2003	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/IT 03/00638	International filing date (day/month/year) 17.10.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 21.10.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC D04B9/56		
Applicant FABRITEX S.R.L. et al.		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 05.04.2004	Date of completion of this report 01.06.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Dreyer, C Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7496



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IT 03/00638

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-20 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-37 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/51-51/51 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

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International application No. PCT/IT 03/00638

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-37
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-37
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-37
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The present invention relates to a method and an apparatus for joining the edges of a tubular knitted article.

The document D1 = EP 0 942 086 A (A-doc.), that is considered to represent the **closest prior art**, is cited in the description, and discloses a method and an apparatus for joining the edges of a tubular knitted article. However, D1 fails in disclosing a method and an apparatus where the transfer of the stiches from said first semi-rank takes place by a 180°-overturning of the same means which have carried out the removal of said stitches.

The remaining documents of the search report (A-doc.) concern the technical background.

The **technical problem** addressed by the invention is to provide a method and an apparatus for joining the edges of a tubular knitted article which present a reduced risk of generating a quality defect.

The **solution** consists in providing a method according to claim 1, and an apparatus according to claim 15. By using the same means for the removal of the stiches from said first semi-rank, and for the overturning of said stiches, the number of stich transfer steps can be reduced. Therefore, the risk of loosing a stich or damaging a loop during transfer is reduced.

The available prior art documents, be they taken alone or in combination, fail in disclosing or suggesting such a solution to the problem to be solved.

Therefore the claims seem to meet the requirements of Article 33 (1), (2), and (3) PCT.